

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** No pets are allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766**
TDD: 816-655-6268

Friday Night Live!

March 10, 2006

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Snakes Alive!



The Nutshell
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

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The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 20 February 2006 Number 02



Citius, Altius, Fortius

While most of us don't speak Latin, these are words that we will hear and come to recognize during the 20th Winter Olympic Games, which take place this month. Translated, they say faster, higher, stronger, and are qualities for which all Olympic athletes strive.

During any long, cold winter the wildlife of Burr Oak Woods, and all of Missouri, have to be faster, higher, and stronger, but not to win medals. They must do this to survive until spring. While amphibians, reptiles, and a few mammals are sleeping and living off of stored fat, the rest are hunting for food and shelter from the elements. Many of these animals would put the human Olympians to shame with their speed and ability to maneuver.

If you are impressed with the 80 mile per hour speed of the Olympic luge riders, think about the Bald Eagle that can dive at speeds up to 100 miles per hour, or the Peregrine Falcon that can reach a speed of 210 miles per hour when diving for food. This same falcon can snatch its prey out of the air with more accuracy than a shooter in the biathlon.

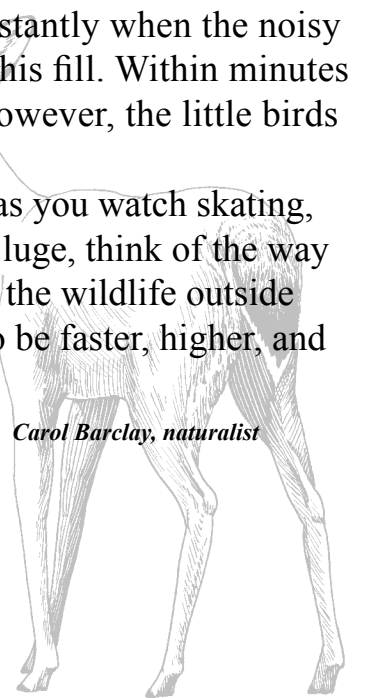
Along those same lines, when we think of the beauty and grace of an Olympic figure skater,

we can also picture a white tail deer who has just heard an unusual sound and goes bounding off into the forest to hide from potential danger; or, watch a red tail hawk as it soars over a prairie in search of an unsuspecting field mouse. This kind of natural splendor would rival that figure skater in many eyes.

Olympic athletes must have tenacity to succeed in their sport. This is also a characteristic of many Missouri wildlife, especially in the winter. Consider the gray squirrel; how many times have you shooed them away from your bird feeders? Yet, the next time you look out your window, they are back again! And the small birds that come to your feeders are gone instantly when the noisy Blue Jay comes to have his fill. Within minutes of the Jay's departure, however, the little birds are back.

Throughout February, as you watch skating, skiing, bobsledding, and luge, think of the way not only the athletes, but the wildlife outside your home are striving to be faster, higher, and stronger.

Carol Barclay, naturalist



Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!

February Programs

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268)

ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE

MONTH to register for the free programs

listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

4 & 5 *Saturday & Sunday*

The All-American Naturalist Quiz

Come to the Nature Center and challenge your natural history and identification knowledge! There will be stations on fish, forest, wildlife, bird calls, bones, scat, insects, tracks, galls, pelts, frogs, and much, much more! This fun-filled activity sure will surprise you! The amount of time it takes depends on how much you know! There will be a naturalist present to help answer any questions or give you some clues! Sheri Medlock, a deaf naturalist will be available to assist the deaf and hard of hearing visitors. No registration required. **All Ages / Come anytime between 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday or 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.**

4 & 5 *Saturday & Sunday*

At the Movies

Join us in the Nature Center at the big screen for an afternoon movie! Perfect activity for a cold February afternoon! Featured film will be the acclaimed *Winged Migration*! No registration required. **Ages 8 & up / 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

8 *Wednesday*

Home School:

Nature Trivia!

Come join us as we play a life-size nature game! This game will help the students discover interesting facts and build their knowledge about nature and wildlife. Be sure to wear socks and bring a fun and wacky hat to wear! Please call to register. **Ages 3 - 5 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**



8 *Wednesday*

Home School:

A Science Fair at Burr Oak Woods

We are doing our own science fair at Burr Oak Woods! We will become detectives and solve a scientific mystery by learning how to do a science project. This month, students

will learn the scientific method and what it takes to do your own science project. This project will be used in the Burr Oak Woods science fair in April and will be judged by the staff.

Ages 6 - 8 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Ages 9 - 11 or 12 and up / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

11 *Saturday*

Outdoor Hikers:

Wallace State Park

Join volunteer naturalist in a hike at Wallace State Park located near Cameron, Missouri. There are 502 acres of heavily wooded hills containing numerous hiking trails. The area is a favorite for bird watchers and nature lovers. We will leave the Nature Center at 9:00 a.m. Bring a snack and water, wear comfortable hiking shoes and dress for the weather. Please call to register. **Adults 20 and up / 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

11 *Saturday*

Missouri Conservation Frontiers: Wildlife Conservation Posters

Now is your chance to display your thoughts to the public on ways people can help wildlife. You will have time to use your creativity and design posters to present to Burr Oak Woods visitors. We will display your creations at the Nature Center and let the staff select the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners! Please call to register. **All Ages / 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

12 *Sunday*

Families:

The Amazing Nature Olympics Race

Wildlife can do some amazing stunts in their everyday life! These stunts would be added to the Olympics if people could do them. Your family will learn some amazing stunts wildlife do everyday in order to survive while trying to complete these stunts for yourself in a race to survive to the end! Please call to register. Dress for the weather. **Families (5 and up) / 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

14 *Tuesday*

Conservation Kid's Club:

The Great Conservation Kid's Club Game Show

Do you like to learn about nature? Do you like trivia? Then we challenge you to join in the Kid's Club in a friendly game show competition! We will work in teams to unlock the mysteries of the fish, forests, and wildlife of Missouri! Please call to register. **Ages 7 - 10 / 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

16 or 23 *Thursday*

Little Acorns:

Maple Sugaring Time!

Bundle up and come on out as we learn how to collect sap from the maple trees and make REAL maple syrup! We will discover the who's, why's and how's of this time honored tradition and sample a variety of syrups to determine the BEST of the BEST! Spaces fill up quickly so call early to register! **Age 3 - 6 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

18 *Saturday*

Families:

Awesome Owls

Did you ever wonder how an owl is able to catch a mouse without being heard or even able to see a mouse when it is dark? During this class we will learn about the amazing adaptations of owls and then use things you might otherwise throw away to make "junk" owl sculptures. Please bring any small plastic or metal pieces (lids, etc.) that may be recycled or thrown away. Please call to register. **Families / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**



18 *Saturday*

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

Join us for our story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required. **Ages 2 and up / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

19 *Sunday*

Winter Walk

Do you think nature can only be enjoyed when it is sunny and warm? Join us as we look for animals and winter beauty on a walk on the Habitat Trail. Please call to register and dress for the weather! Please call to register. **Families (ages 5 and up) / 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

26 *Sunday*

Families:

Animal Athletes

Missouri's wildlife are amazing athletes. Come and learn about animals and their athletic skills that help them to survive in their environment. You will also get a chance to test your abilities against our native athletes. Please call to register. **Families / 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**



February Featured Item



Where Eagles Soar

DVD

regular price \$10.⁰⁰ plus tax

featured price

\$8.⁰⁰ plus tax

Heritage card discount
does not apply

Natural Happenings

GROUNDHOG DAY! On February 2nd, if the groundhog sees his shadow we'll have six more weeks of winter. Let's hope for a cloudy day!

Time to start collecting maple sap for your pancakes!

Freezing nights and warm days get the sap flowing in the tree.

Listen for the Great Horned owl calls. They begin breeding this month. Hoo, Hoo, Hooooooo!

American goldfinches are molting. They will soon have their bright yellow breeding feathers.

Baby opossum climb into their mothers pouch and will stay there until May.

Hip, Hip, Hooray! The Turkey Vultures are returning!



FEBRUARY PROGRAMS AT LAKE CITY RANGE

28900 E Argo Road

Grain Valley, Mo 64029

816-229-4448

www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call **816-229-4448** for information and to register for these programs.

1 *Wednesday*

Fly Tying

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

5 *Sunday*

Basic Handgun

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

9 *Thursday*

How to build a Bird Feeder

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

12 *Sunday*

Basic Shotgun

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

15 *Wednesday*

Firearm Care and Cleaning

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

18 *Sunday*

Reloader's Clinic

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

18 *Saturday*

Shed Hunting

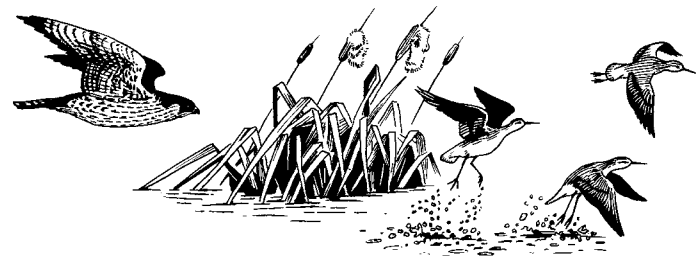
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

24 *Friday*

Build a Live Rabbit Trap

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**** Are you interested in Muzzle Loading? Lake City is starting up a Muzzle Loader group that is interested in shooting for competition, novelty and fun. If you would like more information contact the range at 816-229-4448.****



For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at burroakwoods.org